

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 826

By Sparks

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Military Officers Association of America's Tennessee chapters for their vital support of our enlisted men and women.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, members of the military and their families sacrifice precious time together when the serviceperson is deployed away from home, especially when overseas; and

WHEREAS, keeping in touch with loved ones around special events, such as birthdays and graduations, is essential to the strength and sustainability of our families; and

WHEREAS, the Military Officers Association of American (MOAA) is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers and an independent, non-profit, nonpartisan organization of about 370,000 members from every branch of service, both active and retired, and their families; and

WHEREAS, MOAA established the Cell Phones for Soldiers Project to collect old cell phones and send them to a central collection point in exchange for pre-paid phone cards so that our fighting forces could call family and friends back home free of charge; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's chapters led the nation in earning twenty-nine percent of the total goal of 1,000,000 minutes and helped the national MOAA exceed that goal with a total of over 1,750,000 minutes; and

WHEREAS, two of Tennessee's eleven MOAA chapters, the Middle TN Chapter in Nashville and the Stones River Chapter in Murfreesboro, are among the top five chapters in the

nation in cell phone collection with 6,670 phones that resulted in over 400,620 minutes of call time for our military and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Cumberland Chapter in Crossville earned more than 74,000 minutes, while chapters in Memphis, Madison, Sumner County, and Chattanooga also contributed to the state's total of more than 515,000 minutes; and

WHEREAS, the MOAA's Tennessee chapters truly epitomize the spirit of Volunteerism that has given the State of Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the vitality of our service members and their families greatly depends on the dedication and support of the MOAA, its chapter leaders, and members, who commit their time, energy, and resources to programs like the Cell Phone for Soldiers Project; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize the Military Officers Association of America's concern for our service members and their families in providing them with the opportunity to phone home; salute the Middle TN Chapter in Nashville, the Stones River Chapter in Murfreesboro, and the Upper Cumberland Chapter in Crossville for their outstanding display of the Volunteer Spirit; and thank all Tennessee chapters for their outstanding contributions to the welfare of our military and their families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.